

A Word from our President Todd Reese

Holy Cow another year has gone by, it seems like yesterday when I was nominated to the board as President Elect.

I would like to thank Mike Cook and Guy Gibson for their guidance this year, I also thank Mindy Charron, Michelle Schrader and Rachel Deskins. Each of them needs to be recognized for their efforts with the Membership Recruitment and Retention project we had this year.

Membership Retention and Recruitment should be all our responsibility. I did not know about all the good things the IAA contributes to until I became a board member-Tour the Trees, Trees Forever, IAA Scholarship, just to name a few. At times the board was faced with some tough decisions whether we could contribute to these past recipients. I would like to challenge each member to talk to one person about becoming an IAA member; there is a membership tab on our website that covers all the information you need to become an IAA member.

This year is going to be fun and challenging. Not only are we working on some different workshops but the board will be making preparations to partner with the MW ISA to put on their conference in February of 2014.



From the outgoing Secretary!!

It is hard to believe that Shade Tree and our Annual Meeting have come and gone. I was fortunate enough to hand my Secretarial duties over to Chip Murrow, a very capable guy and remain on the IAA Board as Representative at Large 1. Thank you to all past and present Board members for all support. I enjoyed my time “in the trenches” and look forward to continuing my service.

As the year continues and seasons get in high gear I hope that all of you take the time to read Shannon’s newsletters and look for input to come from the Board. The IAA has a lot to offer its members and we want to make sure you are being heard. Feel free to log onto the website: iowaarboristassociation.org. and check out who is serving you, the members. Feel free to email suggestions or ideas.

Most importantly, encourage a friend or colleague to join.

IAA Educational Scholarship

Did you know that the IAA offers an educational scholarship once a year? Any college student attending a two or more year college can apply. The students must be majoring in a field related to professional tree care and maintenance.

Applying for this scholarship can be done two different ways: 1) By going to our IAA website and printing off the application 2) Visiting with the college department that handles scholarships.

The 2013 winner/recipient has already been chosen and will be announced in the next newsletter.



2013 Iowa Arborist Association Board Members

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Newsletter Material Wanted

Any IAA Member may contribute articles to the newsletter. Please send your articles to Shannon Gibson @ s.gibson@live.com.

Iowa Arborist Association Balance Sheet as of March 26, 2013

Assets

Current Assets
 Checking/Savings

Wells Fargo Bank

2942.13

Total Current Assets 2942.13

Total Assets 2942.13

Liabilities & Equity

Equity

Unrestricted Net Assets

5007.59

Net income -2065.46

Total Equity 2942.13

Total Liabilities & Equity 2942.13



Desiccation a big concern going into spring!

Many homeowners are suffering heartbreak over the loss of mature conifers all over the state. Here in central Iowa, we have been seeing dead spruce, arborvitae, white pines, and the like. These species continue to have requirements for water throughout much of the winter season. Desiccation occurs when the requirements for water in these trees exceeds the available moisture that is in the soil for the roots to uptake.

Symptoms of this environmental damage may show up as general off color needles, brown tips on needles, and can be as severe as to cause death of the tree. Desiccation also can affect evergreen species such as boxwood and rhododendron. The evergreen leaves on these species may look white to brown, and may also lead to the death of the plant.

Before diagnosis, look at the surrounding site conditions of the plant. Is the plant protected from prevailing winter wind patterns? Is the plant mulched? Compare to surrounding plants on the site, desiccation generally affects an entire group of plantings, not a single specimen within a group. Be sure to ask your client about maintenance practices, did the tree receive any supplemental watering last fall? If you are planting a replacement, you should consider the above factors when making species and placement decisions.

Prevention is the best medicine for this problem. All arborist standards pertaining to mulch, pruning, site selection, etc should be observed throughout the growing season. As a general rule, all trees and shrubs should receive the equivalent of 1" of water per week. Maintaining soil moisture is especially important to the conifers and evergreens because they essentially have a longer growing season.

According the US Drought Monitor, Polk County is under a severe drought, with a large area just north and west of here under an extreme drought. A small area in extreme southeastern Iowa is the only portion of the state with adequate soil moisture. The US drought monitoring map can be found on the NOAA website, http://nidis1.ncdc.noaa.gov/portal/server.pt/community/drought_gov/202. Arborists should continue to monitor soil moisture levels in their area to enable better understanding of plant requirements. For now you will likely choose to recommend that your clients get some water on their evergreens or conifers if they appear to be struggling, you may even be recommending removing and replacing many.

Photos courtesy of Mike Schomaker, Colorado State Forest Service, Bugwood.org, and USDA Forest Service - Region 2 - Rocky Mountain Region Archive, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.

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ISA Certified Arborist #MW-4872A

